की एक डीज़ इंजिन विद्युत परियोजना स्थापित की जा रही है।

(ख) दिसम्बर, 1988 में योजना आयोग द्वारा इस परियोजना के सम्बन्ध में निवेश सम्बन्धी अनुमोदन प्रदान करते समय इस पर 122.03 करोड़ रुपए की लागत आने का अनुमान लगाया गया था। प्रथम यूनिट को जून, 1990 में तथा छठवीं यूनिट को दिसम्बर, 1990 में चालू किए जाने की परिकल्पना की गई थी।

(ग) विद्युत उत्पादन सम्बन्धी लागत 1.07 रुपये प्रति यूनिट होने का अनुमान लगाया गया था।

(घ) से (च) परियोजना के सम्बन्ध में तकनीकी-आर्थिक स्वीकृति प्रदान किए जाने के सन्दर्भ में परियोजना प्राधिकारियों द्वारा संशोधित लागत अनुमान अभी केन्द्रीय विद्युत प्राधिकरण को प्रस्तुत नहीं किए गए हैं। तथापि, कर्नाटक बिजली बोर्ड द्वारा अनुमान लगाया गया है कि अब परियोजना पर 293.72 करोड़ रुपए की लागत आएगी और प्रथम यूनिट को अक्तूबर, 1992 तक चालू किया जा सकेगा। इसके अलावा, कर्नाटक बिजली बोर्ड ने विद्युत उत्पादन सम्बन्धी लागत 2.10 रुपए प्रति यूनिट होने का भी अनुमान लगाया है जोकि उनके विचार में अलाभकारी नहीं है।

World Bank's opinion on foreign aid utilisation

*392. SHRI ASHIS SEN:
SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 550 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 14th July, 1992 and state the World Bank's opinion on the country's foreign aid utilisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): The World Bank has, in one of its recent reports on India, stated that over the 1980s, there has been a steady deterioration in India's utilisation of committed official assistance. However it has also noted the recent steps taken by Government of India to improve utilisation, including: (i) increased attention to up-front progress in the key areas of procurement, land acquisition, and clearances; (ii) greater use of adanvces from the central to the state governments; (iii) insistence on improved provisions for contract management and (iv) restructuring of existing projects and winding up of non-viable projects.

Lifting of tobacco by Russia from India

*393. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Russia has agreed to lift 12500 metric tonnes of tobacco from India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES) AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. J. KURIEN): (a) and (b) Russia placed orders for 15,000 tonnes of tobacco in March, 1992, as against Trade Plan provision of 25,000 tonnes. Letters of Credit for an amount of US $25 million covering a quantity of 9600 tonnes of tobacco were opened in last week of June and 1st week of July, and the export of these 9600 tonnes is in progress. For the balance quantity of 5400 tonnes, Letters of Credit are likely to be opened shortly.

Problems of telephone subscribers in Allahabad

*394. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that in Allahabad telephone users having five digit telephone numbers hardly get connected with six digit telephone numbers;

(b) if so, whether the telephones of the above area are to be converted into electronic ones and if so, by when; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the equipment required for conversion have not been supplied so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir. There is some difficulty in inter-exchange calls between cross bar exchange and the electronic exchange.

(b) Yes, Sir. The cross bar system serving the area was originally of 7,000 lines out of which 4,000 lines have already been replaced. The remaining are under the process and will be scrapped by 1993-94.

(c) Yes, Sir. It is true that although some equipment was allotted in 1991-92, the supplied have not been made so far. The same are expected for installation during 1993-94.

Amendment of National Housing Bank Act

@*395. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the National Housing Bank Act to provide for speedy foreclosure of mortgages of housing finance institutions refinanced by National Housing Bank;

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposal;

(c) to what extent it would help the individuals, private sector and non-resident Indians to make investments in housing schemes in the country;

(d) whether Government have finalised the National Housing Policy and if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) by when the amendment is likely to be brought before Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (e) The National Housing Bank has submitted a proposal for some amendments in the National Housing Bank Act, 1987 which also include provisions for creation of charge by declaration and speedy foreclosure of mortgages. The proposal is under consideration of Government. The National Housing Policy was laid in both Houses of Parliament on 9th July, 1992. Some of the important objectives and goals laid down in the Policy are:

(i) Reduce houselessness in the next 10 years by providing large supply of developed land and finance to different income groups;

(ii) Promote use of appropriate and energy saving building materials and cost effective construction technologies;

(iii) Assist in the upgradation of all unserviceable houses in rural and urban areas, with a view to particularly improving the housing conditions of the rural homeless and the inadequately housed, slum dwellers, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and other vulnerable sections;

(iv) To assist all people, and in particular the houseless, the inadequately housed and the vulnerable sections, to secure for themselves affortable shelter through access to developed land, building materials finance and technology;

(v) To create an enabling environment for housing activity by various sections by eliminating constraints and by developing an efficient and equitable system for the delivery of housing inputs;

(vi) To expand the provision of infrastructure facilities in rural and urban areas in order to improve the environment of human settlements, increase the access of poorer households to basic services, and to increase the supply of developed land for housing;

@Previously starred question 255, transferred from 24th July, 1992.